



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from your New President!

I'm honored to serve the Foundation and look forward to working with members over the next 2 years of my term. As I evaluate where the Foundation is in 2018, our membership is predominantly from North America (80%), Europe (11%), and Asia (5%). Every 3-4 years we organize our annual conference outside of North America to connect with researchers in other regions, generate interest in raptors, and recruit new members for RRF. This year I'm pleased to promote our conference in Kruger National Park, South Africa, the first time RRF has met on the continent. The conference will be hosted by the Endangered Wildlife Trust, an organization whose Birds of Prey Programme is well respected for its efforts to conserve vultures and other vulnerable raptor species in Africa. I encourage each of you to consider attending the meeting to hear about research from our African colleagues and experience the abundance of wildlife at Kruger. There will also be many interesting field trips and workshops available. Details can be found on the Raptor Research Foundation's web site.

Moving forward, I would like to thank former Director Fabrizio Sergio, Past-President Miguel Saggese, and the RRF Board for developing and approving a code of conduct policy in 2016 for our conference participants. In speaking with other ornithological society presidents, RRF is not alone in an uptick of reported harassment cases at conferences. The #MeToo movement has elevated the problem of harassment across the globe, mostly publicizing experiences of those in public facing positions like government or entertainment. The science community is dialoguing about harassment in the science field through journals articles, blogs, and professional society policies calling out a need for harassment training, awareness, and zero-tolerance policies. The RRF Board also recently created a Code of Conduct Committee, chaired by Director James Dwyer, to be the point of contact at events, evaluate reports of harassment, and revise the policy over time. We encourage our members to review our code of conduct, ask questions, and suggest changes where needed.

<http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences/current-conference/code-conduct/>



I believe that as RRF members, we should strive to be the professional representatives of our field, whether it's raptor research, conservation, or education. This means respecting each person we interact with the same dignity we seek for ourselves and the raptor species we study. As your president I am committed to keeping RRF conferences as welcoming places to meet other members, exchange ideas, and collaborate on new projects.

Regarding membership, the RRF Board seeks to support RRF members through hosting conferences, grant funding, training workshops, and professional networking. We listened to member requests and in 2017 added two new membership categories to meet emerging needs for our members. The first is a retiree/emeritus category to reduce costs for those sunsetting their careers and the ability to opt out of paper journal issues for those downsizing. The second is an Early Professional category to both reduce costs for those starting their careers and also assist RRF in tracking how students transition into raptor-related careers. We also created gift memberships to allow for giving RRF to students in your lab, family, or colleagues. Let us know how we can support you by contacting me at president@raptorresearchfoundation.org.



Best,

Libby Mojica
RRF President

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC
(Founded in 1966)

OFFICERS

President: Libby Mojica
Vice-president: James Bednarz
President-Elect: "Open"

Secretary: Joan Morrison
Treasurer: Jessi Brown
Past Presidents: Miguel Saggese, Clint Boal

DIRECTORS

Eurasian: Oliver Krone
Southern Hemisphere: Munir Virani
At Large Outside North America: Jemima Parry-Jones
North America #1: Joel (Jeep) Pagel
North America #2: James (JD) Dwyer
North America #3: Todd Katzner

At Large #1: Juan Manuel Grande
At Large #2: Travis Booms
At Large #3: Rob Bierregaard
At Large #4: Lucia Liu Severinghaus
At Large #5: Torgeir Nygård
At Large #6: Jennifer Coulson

EDITORS

Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Raptor Research*: Cheryl Dykstra
Editor, *Wingspan*: Brian Washburn
Website Coordinator: Megan Judkins

For more information about the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. (founded in 1966), please visit the RRF website at: <http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/>.

Persons interested in birds of prey are invited to join the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF). *Wingspan* is emailed twice each year to all members of RRF and is available on the RRF website. Members also receive *The Journal of Raptor Research* (ISSN 0892-1016), which is published quarterly. For membership and subscription information, please contact: **Ornithological Societies of North America**, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60546, USA; 1-312-883-4670 (phone); OSNAMembers@gmail.com (email); <http://www.osnabirds.org> (web).

Editor's Note – Thanks to the following contributors for this issue of the *Wingspan*: Karla Bloem, André Botha, Cheryl Dykstra, Erin Katzner, Carol McIntyre, Libby Mojica, and Miguel Saggese.

Wingspan welcomes contributions from RRF members and others interested in raptor biology and management. Please submit contributions via email to Brian Washburn, *Wingspan* Editor, at rrfwingspan@gmail.com. For long contributions, please send as a MS Word attachment. If you are submitting photos, please include them within the MS Word document with a caption and photo credit.

All issues of *Wingspan* and content guidelines are available at:

<http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/publications/wingspan-newsletter/online-newsletters-pdfs>

“Hatchlings and Fledglings”

**RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION
LEADERSHIP UPDATES**

Submitted by Libby Mojica (RRF President)

In the past few months, we've had a turnover in many of our leadership positions. Please help us thank the outgoing leaders and welcome our new incoming volunteers. We appreciate the time and energy donated to RRF through these positions.

Position	Outgoing	Incoming
	Steve Sheffield	Lloyd Kiff
Ornithological Council Representative		
Ornithological Council Representative	Paul Napier	Bill Bowerman
Award Committee Chair	Gary Santolo	Sofi Hindmarch
Nominations Committee Chair	Lloyd Kiff	Carol McIntyre
Conference Committee Chair	Jerry Niemi	Dan Varland
Code of Conduct Committee Chair (new)		James Dwyer
Charitable Giving Program Chair (new)		Travis Booms
Legal Committee Chair (new)		Jennifer Coulson
North American Director #3	Brian Washburn	Todd Katzner
Director-at-Large #3	Rob Bierregaard	Rob Bierregaard
Director-at-Large #6	Jennifer Coulson	Jennifer Coulson
Eurasian Director	Fabrizio Sergio	Oliver Krone
President	Miguel Saggese	Libby Mojica
JRR Proofreader/Editorial Assistant	Joan Clark	Ruthe Smith

**RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION
2018 ANNUAL ELECTIONS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**
Submitted by Carol McIntyre (Nominations Committee Chair)

1. RRF Officers: Nominations are open for the election of the following officers:

President-Elect: The RRF President is elected in even-numbered years, serving as President-Elect for one year prior to assuming the duties of the office. After one year as President-Elect, the incumbent assumes the Presidency, and serves a two-year term, beginning at the end of the annual

meeting in odd-numbered years. At the completion of the President's term in office, he/she serves as Past-President in an ex-officio capacity to the Board of Directors for four years. During this period, the Past-President shall not hold any other Officer or Director position. The President serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors and shall call and preside at all RRF Directors' Meetings and RRF Regular Meetings. He/she is responsible for the planning and presentation of all matters requiring Board action or action by the Regular Membership, and the expeditious processing of such matters to a conclusion. He/she conducts RRF business in accord with policies set by the Board of Directors and shall perform such further acts and duties as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

Vice president: The RRF Vice President is elected in even-numbered years and serves a two-year term, beginning at the end of the Annual Meeting in even-numbered years. The Vice President assists the President in any executive matters he/she may be called upon to perform. During the absence of the President, he/she will preside over all meetings of the Board and of the Membership. During an incapacity of the President or during a vacancy in the Presidency, he/she shall perform all acts and duties of the President. He/she shall perform such other and further duties as may be directed by the Board of Directors.

2. RRF Directors: Nominations are open for the election of the following directors, to serve a three-year term beginning on January 1, 2019.

- ✘ **Director North American #2**
- ✘ **Director At Large #2**
- ✘ **Director At Large #5**
- ✘ **Director At Large outside North America**

Directors' responsibilities include attendance at and participation in face-to-face and electronic meetings. Directors represent the RRF in all matters of decision-making and assisting RRF in pursuing its mission. Directors propose new initiatives and provide guidance to officers and committee chairs on Foundation activities. Directors of each geographic region are primarily available and responsive to RRF members throughout those regions, bringing any related issues to the RRF Board.

Please see the RRF Bylaws at <http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/about/bylaws/> for more information on RRF Officers and Directors.

Contact Carol McIntyre (RRF Nominations Committee Chair) at carol.mac.r rf@gmail.com by **1 May 2018** with nominations or questions regarding this call. If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please obtain the nominee's approval before you submit his or her name. Upon receipt, nominations will be submitted to the RRF Secretary who will contact the candidates directly to secure a short (250 words or less) biographical summary that will be included on the RRF election ballot. The summary should include their background, RRF affiliation, and primary reasons that they want to serve.

Upcoming Conferences



RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**12-16 November 2018
Skukuza, Kruger National Park, South Africa**

The 2018 Raptor Research Foundation conference will for the first time be hosted in Africa at the *Nombulo Mdluli Conference Centre* which is located in the Skukuza rest camp of the world-famous Kruger National Park in South Africa. Apart from being home to the Big Five and a host of other iconic African mammal species, the park is also renowned for its diversity of bird species with more than 550 species having been recorded here. This includes 43 diurnal raptor, 8 vulture and 10 owl species, many of which occur in substantial populations.

The Kruger National Park is one of the most accessible protected areas in Africa and boasts an extensive, well-developed network of roads which covers most of the vegetation types and facilitates self-drive trips. It also has an extensive range of accommodation options in more than 20 camps scattered throughout the 20,000km² of the park. In addition to accommodation and restaurants in most of the large camps, the park also offers a range of guided drives, including night-drivers and bush walks accompanied by an armed guide.



Pre- and post-conference wildlife tours of the Kruger and other parts of southern Africa are being offered by local and international operators. Details of these are available on the conference website.

Field trip destinations during the conference include a range of areas inside Kruger. In addition, arrangement of field trips to raptor sites in the Lowveld region and along the eastern escarpment are also available.

The conference is graciously co-hosted by the Endangered Wildlife Trust and BirdLife South Africa. All conference arrangements are being facilitated and

managed by The Inside Edge, a professional conference organizing company.

For information on the conference and to register, go to:

<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/293968&t=387718a8ea948ee50253dee3856e567b>

Participants are strongly urged to register, obtain lodging, and make travel arrangements as early as possible.

Come and experience the magic that is Africa and its fantastic range of raptors in November 2018!
We look forward to hosting you.

André Botha

Manager – Special Projects, Endangered Wildlife Trust

Co-chair – IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group



For information on the conference and to register, go to:

<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/293968&t=387718a8ea948ee50253dee3856e567b>

Call for Symposia:

https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file_uploads/e52566b1d86b3a5272d301ebd8c3bc89_2018CallforSymposiaRRFwebsite_01032018.pdf

Call for Papers:

https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file_uploads/1089560e788599d55e5b81ca3dc5f3dc_2018CallforpapersRRF_website_01032018.pdf

Deadline for submission of symposium proposals: 30 April

Deadline for abstract submission: 31 July

2020 Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation and the Neotropical Raptor Network

**4–8 October 2020
Boise, Idaho, USA**

Conference Hosts:

The Peregrine Fund, Boise State University, Intermountain Bird Observatory, Golden Eagle Audubon, USGS Idaho

Co-Chairs:

Sarah Schulwitz, Director of the American Kestrel Partnership, The Peregrine Fund Schulwitz.Sarah@peregrinefund.org and Rick Watson, President, The Peregrine Fund rwatson@peregrinefund.org

News from the RRF

ACCESS CHANGES TO THE JOURNAL OF RAPTOR RESEARCH

Submitted by Libby Mojica (RRF President)

Your Raptor Research Foundation membership includes online access to issues of the Journal of Raptor Research through BioOne.org. Beginning in February 2018, RRF members must first log into the OSNA Member Portal to gain access to the BioOne website. Please view this guide with step-by-step screen shots and instructions:

http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/files/2018/02/JRR_online_access_2018.pdf

Step 1: Login to the [OSNA Member Portal](#)

Step 2: On the home page, scroll down to the “My Membership” section on the bottom left of the screen. Click “View RRF...”.

Step 3: On the View Membership page, the BioOne access link is shown. You must click this link each time to validate your RRF membership with BioOne.

If you have questions about your membership status or cannot see the BioOne link in your account, please contact the OSNA membership office at OSNAMembers@gmail.com. OSNA manages the membership database for RRF.

NEW!!! RRF Gift Memberships Available

Consider gifting your student or colleague with an annual membership to the Raptor Research Foundation. These would be perfect as graduation or holiday gifts for your lab members. Visit our online store for gift memberships <http://bit.ly/2t44L3m>

JOAN CLARK HONORED FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOURNAL OF RAPTOR RESEARCH

Submitted by Cheryl Dykstra, Editor of *Journal of Raptor Research*

Long-time editorial assistant Joan Clark has decided to retire from her position with *The Journal of Raptor Research* after more than 35 years! At the 2017 annual meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation, she was awarded the RRF President's Award *in absentia* by Miguel Saggese in recognition for her exceptional service. RRF gifted her with an original painting of a Ferruginous Hawk by Bryce Robinson as a token of appreciation.

Joan Clark first proofread the Journal when Clay White was the Editor, and her husband Dick Clark was an Associate Editor. She generously offered to help, although RRF didn't have the funds to pay her at that time. RRF eventually recognized the important service Joan was doing and started compensating her for proofreading. Over that time, Joan played a vital role in making JRR the journal it is today, quietly working behind the scenes, making suggestions for improvements, while fixing all our oversights and typos. Joan also has a deeply specialized knowledge of raptor research that made her invaluable as an editorial assistant. Joan has been a great partner, friendly and helpful, full of good ideas for improving our journal. We thank Joan for her incredible dedication, and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Upon receiving her award and painting, Joan wrote the following message to Miguel Saggese and agreed to share it with the membership:

Dear Miguel,

What a nice surprise to receive the President's Award from you! What a great honor. In addition, the Ferruginous Hawk painting will go on our wall for all to enjoy. The notes from the members at the 2017 meeting were also greatly appreciated. It was my honor to proofread the Journal and to work for the past 35+ years with Clayton White, Jimmie Parrish, Joe Schmutz, the late Carl Marti, Marc Bechard, Jim Bednarz, and the current editor, Cheryl Dykstra. Looking back at my education – a B.A. in English, then years of reading math and medical textbooks – I had little knowledge of raptors, but I learned a lot along the way and sort of "grew up" with the Journal. The first issue of 2018 will be proofread by Ruthe Smith, who is wished the same gratification that I have experienced. Thank you, Miguel, Cheryl, and all the members of the JRR.

*Sincerely,
Joan Clark*



**Welcome to New *Journal of Raptor Research* Editorial Assistant
Cheryl Dykstra, Editor of *Journal of Raptor Research***

The Journal of Raptor Research welcomes our new editorial assistant, Ruthe Smith, Ruthe J. Smith Editing Services, <https://ruthejsmith.weebly.com/>. Ruthe earned her M.S. degree in Forest Resources and Conservation from the University of Florida and is experienced in avian research and scientific publication editing. We look forward to working with her in the coming years.

**JOAN CLARK HONORED WITH RRF PRESIDENT'S AWARD
Submitted by Miguel Saggese (RRF Past-President)**

Joan Clark first proofread JRR in 1986, when Clay White was still the editor, and her husband Dick Clark was an Associate Editor. She just offered to help, even though RRF didn't have the funds to pay her at that time. She started out by doing great work through the end of Clay's tenure, then outlasted the next 5 editors, including Jimmie Parrish, Josef Schmutz, Carl Marti, Marc Bechard, and Jim Bednarz. She then continued working with the current Editor, Cheryl Dykstra, for the last 12 years. At some point RRF belatedly recognized the important service Joan was doing and started compensating her for each issue she proofread. Over that time, Joan played an incredibly important role in making JRR the excellent journal it is, quietly working in the background, making suggestions for improvements, while fixing all our oversights and typos. Joan excels at picking up even the minute typographic errors, such as an italic period that should be in roman font. But she also has deeply specialized knowledge of raptor research that makes her invaluable as an editorial assistant. If you've misspelled David Andersen's last name, Joan will catch it. If you've forgotten the hyphen in Bernd Meyburg's name, Joan will fix it. In addition, Joan is a great person to partner with, friendly and helpful, full of good ideas for improving our journal. We can't begin to thank her sufficiently for her dedication and excellent work for our journal and our society. And I daresay that her record of 32 years as proofreader and editorial assistant will stand the test of time.

**BRIAN A. MILSAP HONORED WITH
2017 FRAN AND FRANCIS HAMERSTORM AWARD**

In his current role, Brian Millsap is the National Raptor Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where he has been guiding the development of the Service's current eagle conservation framework. In this role he regularly works with researchers, industry, policy and decision makers, and the public to develop an improved understanding of eagle ecology and informed management policies. Mr. Millsap previously served as Chief of the Division of Migratory Bird Management for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington D.C., and as Assistant Director for Ecological Services and Deputy Regional Director for the Service's Southwest Region. Before joining the Service, he was the Chief of the Bureau of Wildlife Diversity Conservation for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), where he had management oversight for the state's wildlife research program and the nongame and imperiled species programs.

Brian's work over more than 30 years has contributed to the knowledge about the ecology and life history of many species including Accipiters, Bald Eagles, and Golden Eagles. His pioneering work with satellite telemetry and most recently population dynamics of Golden Eagles are particularly notable. What makes Brian especially unique is that during his many years as an administrator, he never lost touch with the science. In his roles with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife, he was keenly aware of management's need for good scientific information, and he conducted and supported research to fill those information gaps. His work has always focused on key issues important to conservation, and his contributions will continue to be important to future conservation efforts.

**JUAN JOSÉ NEGRO HONORED WITH
2017 FRAN AND FRANCIS HAMERSTORM AWARD**

Dr. Negro is one of the most important, productive, creative and original researchers on raptor ecology in Spain right now, with research impacts worldwide. His work covers a variety of species in Europe and abroad, and his research lines are widely multi-disciplinary, including aspects from natural history, behavioural ecology, conservation biology, genetics, population dynamics or migration. He has supervised a large number of Ph.D. and M.S. students on raptor ecology (many of which are now active raptor biologists) and has also developed research methods such as the use of computer programs for color measurements on birds, more effective tools for genetic studies (DNA extraction, markers, etc), the use of unmanned aircrafts for studying raptors and other wildlife, methods for assessing physiological stress in raptors, and many others.

Dr. Negro is an educator who supervises students, he is a leader of his peers who was, for several years the director of Doñana Biological Station, he is multi-disciplinary in many regards, having contributed via the fields of molecular genetics, population biology, animal behavior, conservation biology, and animal movement. He is also a broad thinker who is particularly adept at bridging the many fields in which he is interested.

MIGUEL FERRER BAENA HONORED WITH 2017 TOM CADE AWARD

Miguel's achievements in the field of research and the protection of birds of prey from infrastructure development by the energy sector (power lines and wind turbines) have earned him widespread international recognition. His performance at the head of the Doñana Biological Station in Sevilla during the toxic spill in Aznalcollar, and his most recent success with the reintroduction of endangered species, including the Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) and Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), speak for themselves. Thanks to his efforts, Ospreys are now breeding again in Spain for the first time in more than half a century. Dr. Ferrer's continuing efforts with the Spanish Imperial Eagle, whose population has grown from 100 to more than 500 pairs in Spain since his work began in the early 1980s, is also laudable. Owing to his meticulous reintroduction efforts, this species is also again breeding in Cadiz. These two latter efforts in particular merit his recognition with the RRF's Tom Cade Award.

Miguel's work in close collaboration with utility companies, which began in the 1990s, was key in generating the first European legislation to protect birds during the construction and use of power lines. This legislative model is now spreading throughout Spain and beyond. Overall it is fair to say that the scientific work of Miguel Ferrer has become the basic model for many conservation actions elsewhere in the field.

Raptor News

The Peregrine Fund

Submitted by Erin Katzner



The year 2020 is just around the corner and The Peregrine Fund is excited to welcome you to the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation and the quadrennial meeting of the Neotropical Raptor Network!

The Peregrine Fund will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2020 and are already working to make RRF 2020 a memorable celebration of raptor science and conservation worldwide. Mark your calendar today, because you won't want to miss this party!

The conference will be held 4–8 October 2020 in Boise, Idaho, USA. Conference hosts include The Peregrine Fund, Boise State University, Intermountain Bird Observatory, Golden Eagle Audubon, USGS Idaho. Conference co-chairs are Dr. Sarah Schulwitz, Director of the American Kestrel Partnership, and Dr. Rick Watson, President and CEO of The Peregrine Fund. For any questions please contact Sarah at Schulwitz.Sarah@peregrinefund.org



New book, *Applied Raptor Ecology: Essentials from gyrfalcon research* is now available for **free download!**

Faced with the urgent need to understand global conservation challenges, like climate change impacts on Arctic wildlife, biologists from around the world teamed up to create a manual of global standards in data collection and analysis for raptor ecology in a revolutionary new book, *Applied Raptor Ecology: Essentials from gyrfalcon research*. In the book, Gyrfalcons are the species chosen as a case study to illustrate raptor biology techniques, but the methods and questions can be applied to almost any raptor species around the world.

The book is essential reading and reference material for anyone studying raptors and other birds. *Applied Raptor Ecology* is a valuable addition to every biologist's bookshelf whether in the field for many years or just starting out as an

entry-level graduate. Students will particularly benefit by learning which questions they should ask and how to design a study as well as other advantageous tools required in the development of thesis topics.

Additionally, included within the book are: a companion webpage that allows users to download all of the R code needed to perform analyses adaptable to individual research needs and questions, a photographic and morphometric guide to aging Gyrfalcon nestlings, and guidelines for conducting a camera study of nesting raptors.

This cooperative project was made possible by the generous support of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and is the product of editors Dr. David Anderson and Dr. Christopher McClure of The Peregrine Fund and Dr. Alastair Franke of the Arctic Raptors Project along with thirteen raptor ecology experts from around the globe who contributed chapters to the project.

To download your free copy, go to <http://peregrinefund.org/applied-raptor-ecology-chapters>

Several of our project areas were affected by this past year's extreme hurricane weather in the tropics (Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico)

Fortunately the Ridgway's Hawks in the Dominican Republic were not affected since the hurricanes came close to but did not directly hit the island. Our biologist, Dr. Martin Quiroga, is a resident there and prepared for the worst (packed up and boarded up the lab) while hoping for the best. He reports that it caused setbacks for our research on the bot fly problem, but didn't cause mortality in any Ridgway's Hawks. We are hopeful for another good breeding season and further population growth next year.

Puerto Rico, on the other hand, was shattered and our thoughts are with all of the people there who are still working hard to recover from the devastation

The forest where most of the endangered Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk's we know occur was destroyed. Early reports told us that there were just stumps left where the forest once was. Peregrine Fund biologist, Russell Thorstrom, is in Puerto Rico right now surveying the damage and planning potential salvage operations. He has reported seeing a few hawks but their situation is dire.



Aplomado Falcons weathered Hurricane Harvey in South Texas and our biologists are hopeful for another successful breeding season

As Hurricane Harvey was bearing down on Rockport, Texas, near the barrier islands the northern half of the wild Aplomado Falcon population call home, our biologists were keeping a close eye on the radars. The primary image on the news of the eye of the storm tightening around the town



looked grim. At the time Senior Field Biologist Brian Mutch reported, “Wildlife can be resilient but this will be the ultimate test for the falcons. It’s probably safe to assume every nest structure may need to be replaced.”

Fortunately the 2017 nestlings had already fledged, and Brian is optimistic that the falcons flew inland for cover prior to the storm’s landfall. After the storm subsided, we began work with our contacts to track falcon observations in the area. Brian tells us that he “expects that spring occupancy surveys will reveal all or most of the breeding territories occupied.” Unfortunately, our contacts found nest platform after nest platform completely damaged meaning that we have had to replace many of the platforms. These platforms are critical to nestling survival as they prevent Great Horned Owls from stealing the chicks from the nests.

The Peregrine Fund is proud to announce that we are now officially recognized as a Cooperating Partner of the United Nations Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Raptors Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

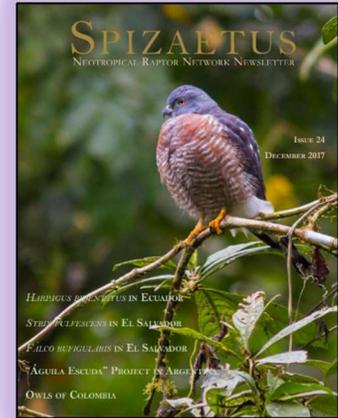


In a plenary hall filled with hundreds of delegates from 128 Range States, The Peregrine Fund was recognized and acknowledged for the important work we do to conserve raptors. Vice President and Global Director for Conservation Strategy, Dr. Munir Virani signed the MoU in the presence of the Executive Secretary Bradley Chambers and other officials. In a short speech he said, "The Peregrine Fund is honored and privileged to be considered and recognized as a cooperating partner of CMS's Raptors MoU. We look forward to working more closely with the CMS and associated partners as well as adding our scientific and technical expertise towards the conservation of raptors globally."

The meeting, hosted by the Government of the Philippines in Manila, addressed partnering with the UN to tackle conservation issues at the government level and at a broader scale.

Newest edition of *Spizaetus* the newsletter of the Neotropical Raptor Network (NRN) available now

This latest publication features research articles on kites, owls, falcons, and more spanning from El Salvador to Argentina. The NRN is a membership-based organization with the goal of helping the research and conservation of Neotropical raptors by promoting communication and collaboration among biologists, ornithologists, raptor enthusiasts, and other conservationists working in the Neotropics. You can read the entire newsletter at:



https://assets.peregrinefund.org/docs/newsletters/spizaetus-24-english-2017-12-17_120138.pdf

World Owl Hall of Fame

Submitted by Karla Bloem

Owl enthusiasts from around the world gathered March 2-4, 2018 at the 16th Annual International Festival of Owls in Houston, MN. They celebrated owls and people who make the world a better place for owls. Three persons were inducted into the World Owl Hall of Fame to honor their exceptional contributions to the study, conservation, and public awareness of owls.

Dr. Erkki Korpimäki received the Champion of Owls Award for more than 50 years of research on the Boreal Owl and other birds of prey in Finland. He is recognized as an international expert on the Boreal Owl, owl ecology, and avian predator-prey relationships. For decades, Dr. Korpimäki has examined how forestry, agriculture, and climate change affect the population dynamics and conservation of owls. Based upon his research findings, he has established and maintains large networks of owl nest-boxes in western Finland to assist in breeding success. Currently, Dr. Korpimäki is Professor of Animal Ecology in the Department of Biology at the University of Turku, Finland.

Jonathan Haw, of the South African Company, EcoSolutions, received a Special Achievement Award for his long-term, innovative efforts to protect South Africa's native owls. Mr. Haw directs the Urban Owl Box Project, using native Barn Owls and Spotted Eagle Owls, rather than toxic rat

poisons, to control rodent infestations. In 1998, Mr. Haw created Owlproject.org, a nest box program for orphaned Barn Owls that involves South Africa's schoolchildren in raising and releasing owls. Over 100,000 school children have participated in Owlproject.org and approximately 4,000 orphaned Barn Owls have been released.

Lisa Owens Viani received a Special Achievement Award in recognition of her efforts to save owls by ending the use of rat poison. She founded Raptors are the Solution (RATS) in 2011, to educate the public on the lethal, secondary effects of rat poison on predatory birds and animals that ingest poisoned rats. RaptorsAreTheSolution.org serves as a national clearinghouse for information about rats, rodenticides, and rodenticide impacts on wildlife. Ms. Owens Viani is known as a coalition builder in the anti-rodenticide movement and RATS advocacy has led to bans on rodenticide use in California including state parks, wildlife areas, and 28 cities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and BRIEF NEWS ITEMS

For Sale

RRF Publications, Pins, and Decals – Hard copies of *The Journal of Raptor Research* (Vol. 1-30), most Raptor Research Reports, and RRF pins and decals may be purchased directly from RRF (Jessi Brown, RRF Treasurer; email: treasurer@raptorresearchfoundation.org). See <http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/publications/journal-of-raptor-research/back-issues/> <http://raptorresearchfoundation.org/back-issues-jrr.htm> for details and prices. Orders for 4 or more issues receive a 30% discount. Hard copies of *The Journal of Raptor Research* (Vol. 31+) may be purchased from Ornithological Societies of North America (1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60546, USA; 1-312-883-4670 (phone); osnamembers@gmail.com (email); <http://www.osnabirds.org> (web). Some older issues are not available in hardcopy; but all issues from Vol. 1-39 are available on SORA (<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/jrr/>) for free download.

Announcements

Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas

Minnesota's first atlas was recently completed and is available at <https://www.mnbirdatlas.org>. The website includes a summary of the historical and current status of the 249 species found breeding in the state, plus information on breeding habitat, population abundance, and conservation. A book version is under consideration.

Florida Preserve Named after Dr. Jeff Lincer

Dr. Lincer is a Past-President of the Raptor Research Foundation and the SoCal Chapter of TWS and, currently, the Chapter's Representative to the Western Section. Most of you know him for his work in Southern California, especially with raptors, but he accomplished many things before he came to the West Coast in 1991. Jeff found time to teach at the University of South Florida and the University of Florida, provide expert testimony, serve as President of the Raptor Research Foundation for most of the 80s, and serve as Technical Editor for the Florida Environmental Teacher's Resource Books (grades 1-6). In April of 1990, Sarasota Magazine identified Dr. Lincer as one of twenty local environmental heroes. The final sentence reads: "His ideas and studies about our environmental health have in many cases shaped public policy and made Sarasota a better place to live." Dr. Lincer has produced over 100 scientific publications and papers and, in addition to his local work in Southwest Florida, he is a recognized authority on raptors, and has also made noteworthy scientific contributions on many fish-eating birds, fish, Fiddler Crabs, and American Oysters.

Raptor Management and Techniques Manual Available On-line

The 2nd Edition of the *Raptor Management and Techniques Manual* – Edited by David Bird and Keith Bildstein – is available for download (as a PDF) on the Raptor Research Foundation's website

<http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/publications/techniques-manual>



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